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Bomb wounds Cmdr. Zero

The dead were Linda Frazier, a reporter for the English-language Tico Times of San Jose and wife of AP Central American correspondent Joseph Frazier, and Jorge Quiroz, a Costa Rican television cameraman from San Jose, a guerrilla known as "Rosita," and two other unidentified persons.

Pastora, 48, who rose to fame as "Commander Zero" during Nicaragua's 1979 revolution but later split with the regime over its Marxist drift, waved V-for-victory signs as he was taken to the private Biblica Clinic in San Jose, Costa Rica, in a Red Cross ambulance yesterday morning.

Clinic doctors said Pastora suffered burns and shrapnel wounds from the blast but his condition was not serious.

No one took responsibility for the attack but Pastora's followers blamed the CIA. In Washington, the CIA denied "categorically" that it had "anything to do with the bombing of the press conference," according to agency spokeswoman Patricia Volz.

Costa Rica accused the Sandinista government of Nicaragua, which Pastora's rebels are seeking to overthrow. The Sandinistas had no immediate comment.

Radio Monumental, a commercial radio station, reported sources in Pastora's faction of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, or ARDE, said the CIA engineered the attack because Pastora had resisted efforts to join the CIA-backed Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), an anti-Sandinista group based in Honduras.

Pastora has refused to link up with the FDN because its military command is dominated by former followers of the man the Sandinistas overthrew in July 1979, President Anastasio Somoza.

The attack occurred behind rebel lines one mile inside Nicaragua and 100 miles north of San Jose in the hamlet of La Penca, where Costa Rican and foreign journalists had traveled for a news conference.

"There were screams of desperation and horror. It was impossible to get out because of the panic. Pastora's soldiers were shooting their automatic rifles. I came across a TV cameraman with his left leg amputated. There were at least two other dead bodies," said UPI correspondent William Cespedes.

"Outside, I walked alongside Pastora, who was walking about, giving orders, saying to send the most seriously injured to a hospital. He had some burns on his face and that was all I saw," he said.